

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4091

To authorize the establishment of domestic violence court systems from amounts available for grants to combat violence against women.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2002

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Ms. LEE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WATSON of California, Mr. FROST, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. STARK, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BACA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To authorize the establishment of domestic violence court systems from amounts available for grants to combat violence against women.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Domestic Violence  
5 Courts Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Nearly one-third of American women report  
4 being physically or sexually abused by a husband or  
5 boyfriend at some point in their lives.

6 (2) Family violence costs the nation between  
7 \$5,000,000,000 and \$10,000,000,000 each year in  
8 medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters  
9 and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-  
10 productivity.

11 (3) The Nation's first specialized domestic vio-  
12 lence court was established in Chicago in the early  
13 1980s to centralize the prosecution of domestic vio-  
14 lence offenders.

15 (4) There are presently more than 150 domestic  
16 violence courts in at least 23 States nationwide.

17 (5) Specialized domestic violence courts in sev-  
18 eral communities have resulted in cutting the proc-  
19 essing time of domestic violence, reducing a backlog  
20 of existing domestic violence cases and raising the  
21 conviction rate.

22 (6) Specialized domestic violence courts allow  
23 judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys to focus  
24 on the intricacies of domestic violence cases, espe-  
25 cially with regards to repeat offenders.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT**  
2 **SYSTEMS FROM AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR**  
3 **GRANTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST**  
4 **WOMEN.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part T of the Omnibus Crime  
6 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (relating to grants  
7 to combat violent crimes against women) is amended as  
8 follows:

9 (1) PURPOSES FOR WHICH GRANTS MAY BE  
10 USED.—Section 2001(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 3796gg(b)) is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”  
13 at the end;

14 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-  
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
17 paragraph:

18 “(12) providing the resources to establish and  
19 maintain a court system dedicated to the adjudica-  
20 tion of domestic violence cases, including providing  
21 such resources as—

22 “(A) prosecutors and court personnel;

23 “(B) technical assistance and counseling;

24 “(C) training of attorneys, judges, and  
25 court personnel (which should be carried out in

1 consultation with local domestic violence advo-  
2 cates and State domestic violence coalitions);

3 “(D) technological improvements and data  
4 collection; and

5 “(E) improvement of court facilities.”.

6 (2) QUALIFICATION FOR FUNDS.—Section  
7 2002(c)(3)(C) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3796gg–  
8 1(c)(3)(C)) is amended by inserting after “including  
9 juvenile courts” the following: “and specialized do-  
10 mestic violence courts”.

11 (b) ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than  
12 thirty days after the expiration of the third fiscal year be-  
13 ginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
14 Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the  
15 implementation and effectiveness of the amendments made  
16 by this Act, including the effectiveness of grants made  
17 under such amendments in reducing the rates of domestic  
18 violence and shortening the period of judicial review in do-  
19 mestic violence cases.

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